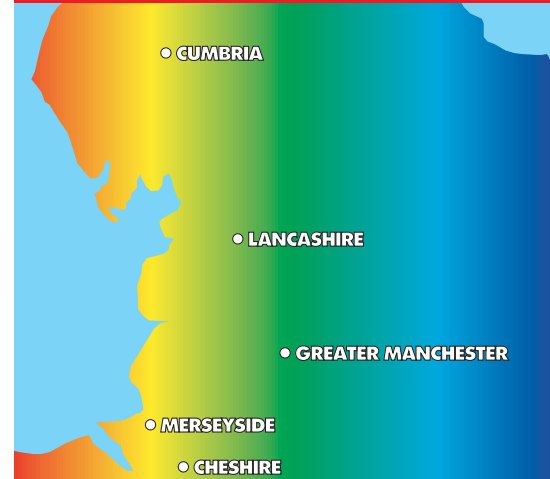


# RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

Building a Unified Voice  
for the Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and  
Trans  
Sector



ISSUE TWO JULY-SEPT 07



## RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP

# Building the Rainbow Partnership

Welcome to the second Rainbow Partnership newsletter. The first newsletter generated more interest into this new initiative and has increased both membership and awareness across the North West and beyond.

The purpose of the Rainbow Partnership is:

- To bring LGBT individuals, organisations, communities and groups together to work in partnership
- To ensure that LGBT frontline organisations have access to and support from mainstream infrastructure organisations.

We intend to achieve these aims through establishing networks (both physical and virtual), regional campaigns, newsletters, fact sheets, an email policy watch service, a North West LGBT Strategy, sub regional events and formal links with infrastructure organisations. However the one thing that is going to bring about change and ensure the success of this initiative is the membership.

### THE BENEFITS OF RAINBOW PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

Some of the key benefits of becoming a member of the Rainbow Partnership are:

- Involvement in the creation of an LGBT strategy for the North West, the first of its kind in the UK.

- You will be kept up to date on the latest developments in legislation and policy that affect the LGBT sector.
- Access to web based fact sheets on everything from funding to new legislation.
- An opportunity to share information and work with other organisations within the LGBT sector.
- Creating and developing working relationships with organisations.
- Improved access to support from mainstream infrastructure organisations.

Not only are there many benefits to becoming a member of the Rainbow Partnership, consider what LGBT people have already achieved by working together:

- January 2001**  
Equal age of consent for gay men
- September 2003**  
Section 28 repealed
- July 2004**  
Gender Recognition Act
- December 2005**  
Civil Partnerships Act
- April 2007**  
Goods and Services Act

In isolation, what we can achieve deserves recognition, but by working together, and celebrating our individuality and uniqueness, what we can achieve is much greater.

## NORTH WEST LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUAL & TRANS PEOPLE



**NORTH WEST TOTAL POPULATION:**

**6.8 MILLION**

**ESTIMATED NW LGBT POPULATION:**

**612,000**

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL LGBT EARNING POTENTIAL:**

**£5.5 BILLION**

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL LGBT TAX EARNINGS:**

**£1.5 BILLION**

**ESTIMATED NW ANNUAL LGBT COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS:**

**£270 MILLION**

## INSIDE No2:

Competition for public sector services; New Goods and Services Regulations; Sub-Regional Infrastructure Organisations.



# AROUND THE NETWORK

## PRIDE SPORTS

### Pride Sports and The Rainbow Partnership

Pride Sports is a dynamic entrepreneurial community driven infrastructure organisation. It's focus is on annual LGBT multi sports events and year round capacity building and enabling support, primarily for increasing participation in sporting activity by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals trans people and the wider community.

At Pride Sports we are particularly excited about the many opportunities the Rainbow Partnership can enable across the North West, in terms of mutually beneficial activity that helps us achieve our respective goals.

Over the past 10 years, we have seen significant growth in both participation and support for LGBT sports and leisure and we have seen the number of groups in Greater Manchester expand from 1 men's football team to, at my last count, just over 40 groups!

This led to the birth of Pride Games back in 2003, where we saw many of the Team Manchester sports groups work together for the first time to stage an international event. We are currently steaming ahead

with a massive partnership effort to deliver our largest ever Pride Games (**August 12-19th**) and we are preparing a special showcase event that's open to all.

Looking ahead, the importance of the Rainbow Partnership will become increasingly clear as our networking connections develop and our ambitions grow. Here at Pride Sports, we aim to host the World Outgames in 2013, presenting massive opportunities for broad engagement across the region and strengthening of the LGBT sector in ways we haven't yet imagined.

To give it scale, imagine the Commonwealth games with 14 extra sports events and nearly 4 times as many people, and I think the scope for us all becomes more clear. We need to build a sound, enabling and supportive Rainbow Partnership to help us realise our potential.

**Trevor Burchick MBE**  
Director Pride Sports  
[www.pridegames.org](http://www.pridegames.org)



## CUMBRIA & LANCASHIRE

### Cumbria & Lancashire Sexual Health Network

Hello! Let me introduce myself, my name is **Stephen Woods**, and I am the **Sexual Health Network Co-ordinator for Cumbria and Lancashire**. The aim of the network is to improve communication and develop services that focus on positive sexual health for all.

It acknowledges that sex and sexuality do not exist within a vacuum but within relationships and social structures, and it seeks to improve sexual health in a holistic way.

The Network aims to develop outcome measures, ensure quality standards and strive for excellence and modernisation in sexual health service provision to improve sexual health.

The Network also aims to work on a wider basis linking agendas for example Teenage Pregnancy, Alcohol, and Substance use. It also works to foster

links in relation to LGBT activity to raise awareness, improve communication and influence the development and delivery of policy, training and sexual health services. As network co-ordinator, I currently chair the Lancashire Sexuality and Equality Forum and I am an active participant in the development of the Navajo Charter mark. We are currently looking to further develop the charter mark and we are considering constituting the group and producing a three year business plan.

The network would like to see the Rainbow Partnership engage with these developments across Cumbria and Lancashire, supporting and promoting local groups to facilitate local responses.

**Stephen Woods**  
Sexual Health Network Co-ordinator  
[www.clashonline.co.uk](http://www.clashonline.co.uk)

## MERSEYSIDE

### Homotopia

**"Queer culture is truly celebrated with Liverpool's first ever-dedicated perspective of events by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.**

Homotopia is a bold and ambitious festival, featuring a variety of events including theatre, film, art, performance, photography, heritage and storytelling. I hope that the Liverpool lesbian & gay community realises its untapped potential and engage in one of the most exciting chapters in the city's history. Without the trust and continuing support of the Liverpool Culture Company and our key partners (such as Unity Theatre, Outsiders Film Festival, FACT and Armistead) this project would have been an impossible task. Finally, I believe that Homotopia will help, in some way, to position Liverpool and its diverse communities in becoming a first class European Capital of Culture."

**Gary Everett, Festival Director**  
[www.homotopia.net](http://www.homotopia.net)



## O'NEILL PATIENT SOLICITORS



## O'Neill Patient Solicitors

O'Neill Patient Solicitors' strap line is that we stand out in a crowd, and now that we are, we very much hope to be part of the crowd from now on.

I hope that spending time socialising and networking with like minded business people within the North West Community who are pro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender and who want to help the community and each other, we can all provide benefit and support for each other as well as for others.

There is nothing like a team with objectives working together, giving signs of solidarity and purpose, to move things along. Big isn't always necessary but it is certainly effective! I hope over the coming months as well as trying to get together to stamp our authority on the North West, we can also come together and have a bit of fun at the same time. If we are seen to be smiling, it may make others see a purpose in joining the Rainbow Partnership Network. We have certainly got our tambourines at the ready, BRING IT ON!

**Les Patient Partner** O'Neill Patient Solicitors  
[www.oneillpatient.co.uk](http://www.oneillpatient.co.uk)

### DO YOU RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING?

Government plans to ensure public services provide value for money and bring greater public benefit, has led to much discussion, media attention and policy development on *contestability* (outsourcing public services through competitive tendering). The principles leading to such reform include:

- Choice
- Competition
- Public involvement at a local level
- Inclusion of the independent sector

The Government wish to see a combination of public sector, independent sector and third sector organisations providing innovative public services. This has already happened in Local Authorities, within social services, public transport and waste management to name but a few. Now there is much talk about doing the same within NHS services.

So what does this mean for those of you who currently contract with Government (locally, regionally and nationally)?

The service(s) that you are currently funded to provide may be put out to tender.

So what do you need to be doing about it?

- You should already be discussing with your commissioner / funder what their plans are for contestability within your area of service delivery.
- You should have a clear needs assessment of the communities you serve.
- You should have a clear understanding of what types of services you need to be providing in 2-5 years time to meet the needs of communities.
- You should ensure the governance / accountable body for your project or organisation understands the contestability agenda.
- You should have an understanding of tendering processes (look out for factsheets and examples of tender documents shortly on [www.rainbowpartnership.net](http://www.rainbowpartnership.net)).

You may also disagree with this way of funding public services. If so, you need to be constructively lobbying your local and regional Government commissioners with your concerns.

### THE EQUALITY ACT/ SEXUAL ORIENTATION REGULATIONS 2007

On 30 April 2007, new legislation came into force to protect individuals discriminated against

on the grounds of their sexual orientation. The regulations make it unlawful to discriminate against lesbian, gay and bisexual people in the provision of services. For example it is now illegal to be refused a double room if you are a gay couple, refused a gift service for a civil partnership, or refused admission to a school based on the parents' sexual orientation.

The regulations extend to England, Scotland and Wales.

Catholic adoption agencies have until December 2008 to comply with these regulations.

For more information about legal rights for LGB people, you can download a copy of **A Guide to Your Rights** at [www.lgf.org.uk](http://www.lgf.org.uk).



### THE NATIONAL LGBT HEALTH SUMMIT

The National LGBT Health Summit with the theme Choices, Voice, Knowledge and Power will be held in Manchester on **20 and 21 August 2007** and aims to attract 350 delegates from across the United Kingdom and the world for two days of discussion, debate and exploration. The Summit is being hosted by the Lesbian & Gay Foundation.

Choices, Voices, Knowledge and Power – Tackling the health inequalities experienced by LGBT people is about empowering choice; it's about creating a voice and advocacy at local, regional and national level; it's about having the knowledge to make decisions and form strategies which will make a difference for individuals and for communities; and it's about working with the system and against the system to exert influence with and without power.

The National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Summit is an opportunity to share good practice, research and evidence base, ideas and debates, successes and failures and to learn from each other.

To find out how you can attend, and for more information, full details can be found at [www.lgbthealth.co.uk](http://www.lgbthealth.co.uk)



Rainbow Partnership

# INFRASTRUCTURE



## ■ INFRASTRUCTURE

# Your Sub-Regional Infrastructure Support Services

Change Up is the Government framework to build capacity and infrastructure in the voluntary and community sector, and is managed by Capacitybuilders.

Change Up's aim is that by 2014, the needs of frontline voluntary and community organisations in England will be met by support which is:

- Available nationwide
- Structured for maximum efficiency

- Offering excellent provision
- Accessible to all
- Truly reflecting and promoting diversity
- Sustainably funded

Investment is made at national, regional, sub-regional and local levels, with the bulk of investment (65%) going through the regions to support sub-regional and local initiatives benefiting organisations on the ground.

Across the North West there are five Change Up Consortia; all of which are detailed on this page.

## ■ GREATER MANCHESTER VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT

**Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support, led by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations.**

Their 2006 – 2008 priorities include (a) improving access to infrastructure organisations for disabled people, lesbians & gay men, refugees and BME-led groups, (b) improving information sharing among consortium members, and (c) developing a trading system for infrastructure organisations. Allocated £1,451,900 by Change Up.

For more details contact Chris Heard on 0161 277 1030 or [chris.heard@gmcvo.org.uk](mailto:chris.heard@gmcvo.org.uk) or visit [www.gmvss.net](http://www.gmvss.net)

## ■ CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM

**Cheshire & Warrington Voluntary & Community Sector Infrastructure Consortium, led by Cheshire Community Council.**

Their aims include (a) improving quality of & access to infrastructure organisations, (b) reconfiguring infrastructure organisations where necessary, (c) integrating community development, urban & rural social exclusion activity within infrastructure organisations, (d) more effective marketing, relations and communications within infrastructure organisations and beyond, and (e) a more sustainable funding base from which to develop infrastructure. Allocated £1,029,400 by Change Up.

For more details contact Mark Reading on 01244 354118 or [mark.reading@cheshirecc.org.uk](mailto:mark.reading@cheshirecc.org.uk) or visit [www.cheshirecc.org.uk](http://www.cheshirecc.org.uk)

## ■ CHANGE UP MERSEYSIDE

**Change Up Merseyside, led by Sefton Council for Voluntary Service.** They aim to catalyse improvement in the service of infrastructure bodies such as the CVS and Volunteer Centres and get the best out of it for voluntary and community groups, large and small across the whole of Greater Merseyside. Allocated £1,292,300 by Change Up.

For more details contact Martin Preston on 0151 920 0726 or

[martin@changeupmerseyside.org.uk](mailto:martin@changeupmerseyside.org.uk) or visit [www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk](http://www.changeupmerseyside.org.uk)

## ■ LANCASHIRE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH SECTOR CONSORTIUM

**Lancashire Voluntary, Community, Faith Sector Consortium, led by Community Futures.** They are in the process of developing a Lancashire Action Plan. Allocated £1,329,800 by Change Up.

For more details contact Denise Partington on 01772 900251 or

[denisep@communityfutures.org.uk](mailto:denisep@communityfutures.org.uk) or visit [www.vcfs.org.uk](http://www.vcfs.org.uk)

## ■ CHANGE UP CUMBRIA

**Change Up in Cumbria, led by Cumbria Association of Councils for Voluntary Service.** They are currently developing a wider voluntary and community sector forum to take the programme forward. Allocated £1,078,000 by Change Up.

For more details contact Karen Bowen on 01768 242138 or [karen@edencvs.co.uk](mailto:karen@edencvs.co.uk) or visit [www.cacvs.org.uk](http://www.cacvs.org.uk)

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